Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the government have received any charter of demands from the Regional Rural Banks, Workers Association in the last week of July 1991;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have taken any action on their demands;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir. Government have been receiving demands from several unions and associations of employees of Regional Rural Banks (RRBs).

(b) The demands of Regional Rural Bank unions/associations, interalia, include;

i) formation of Rural Bank of India.

ii) implementation of the award of the National Industrial Tribunal.

iii) rectification of alleged anamolies in the matter of equation of posts of Regional Rural Banks with those in the sponsor banks and in the fitment formula.

iv) Payment of arrears of pay etc. arising as a result of fixation of pay in sponsor bank pay scales.

v) regularisation of temporary and part-time messengers.

vi) Grant of rural compensatory allowance for performing duties in rural areas.

(c) to (e). Government has no proposal under consideration for formation of a Rural Bank of India. The National Industrial Tribunal gave its award on 30.4.90. Government subsequently constituted an Equation Committee to equate the posts of Regional Rural Banks with those in the sponsor banks for the purpose of grant of sponsor bank pay scales to the employees of RRBs on the basis of the award of the Tribunal. The award of the Tribunal and the recommendations of the Equation Committee have been accepted. Government issued orders on 22nd February, 1991 granting sponsor bank pay scales with effect from 1.9.1987. The employees have been paid arrears of pay consequent to the refixation of pay in the new pay scales w.e.f. 1.2.1991. The mechanism for the payment of arrears for the period 1.9.87 to 31.12.90 will be considered by Narional Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development in consultation with Reserve Bank of India. The Equation Committee recommended that the Chairman of each Regional Rural Bank should ascertain the position of part-time messengers regarding their working hours and equate them with part of full-time messengers of the concerned sponsor banks engaged for the same hours of work. A Working Group has recently been created in NABARD to frame promotion policy and service rules of RRB employees and also attend to any other relevant matters.

Setting up of Coast Guard District Headquarters in Orissa

5208. DR. KARTIKESWAR PATRA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to set up a Coast Guard District Headquarters in Orissa; and

(b) if so, the details of the progress made in this regard?

THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) and (b). A Coast Guard District Headquarters has already been set up at Paradeep in Orissa and is operational since 7th February, 1991.

Interest Rates on World Bank IMF Loans and NRI Deposits

5209. SHRI K. PRADHANI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the interest rates charged by International Monetary Fund and the World Bank for short, medium and long term loans; and

(b) the interest rates for Non-resident Indian's deposits for similar periods?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a). The interest rates of IMF are determined from time to time depending on the prevailing SDR interest rates, with certain adjustments. Currently the rate is 8.62% per annum.

The World Bank new Variable lending rate linked to cost of borrowings for projects for the semester ending June, 1991 was 7.73% per annum.

(b) The current rates are as under:-